

HOUSE BILL 258

By Moody

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 21, relative to student
transportation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2108, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a) The local board of education shall require annual physical and mental examinations of school bus drivers and require reports to be made on forms prescribed by the local board of education.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2108, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b) It is the duty of the local board of education to revoke the certificate issued to a school bus driver under § 49-6-2107 if the school bus driver is found to be physically, mentally, or morally unfit to operate a school bus, or if the school bus driver has been:

(1) Convicted in this state of one (1) or more of the violations outlined in § 49-6-2107(e)(1); or

(2) Convicted in another jurisdiction of violating a law that prohibits the same conduct as one (1) or more of the violations outlined in § 49-6-2107(e)(1).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2109, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a) Students must be transported in safe equipment:

(1) Constructed of steel or materials providing similar safety; and

(2) That include other safety features as set forth in the specifications for school buses approved by the department of safety. The department of education shall develop the specifications for school buses and shall recommend the specifications for school buses to the department of safety for approval.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2109(b)(1), is amended by deleting the language ", and neither the state board of education nor the commissioner of safety shall" and substituting instead ". The commissioner of safety shall not".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2109(c)(1), is amended by deleting the language "in accordance with requirements of the state board of education" and substituting instead "in accordance with the specifications for school buses developed by the department of education and approved by the department of safety".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2109(c)(2), is amended by deleting the language "state board of education" and substituting instead "department of safety".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2109(e)(1), is amended by deleting the language "The board" and substituting instead "The department of safety".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2109(e)(2), is amended by deleting the language "The board" and substituting instead "The department of safety".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2115, is amended by adding the language "or the department of safety" after the language "state board of education".

SECTION 10. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.